

## **Letter of Interest for Vacant Seat on Gunnison City Council**

**May 31, 2016**

**Andy Sovick  
700 North 14<sup>th</sup> Street  
Gunnison, Colorado 81230**

**(970) 631-4337  
andysovick@gmail.com**

- **US Citizen**
- **Resident of Gunnison**
- **Registered Voter**
- **34 Years old**
- **Homeowner and Landlord**
- **Occupation: Home Builder, Book Publisher.**

**To Gunnison City Council,**

It is an honor to be able to submit my letter of interest for selection to fill the vacant seat on Gunnison City Council. I have been a resident of the Gunnison Valley since July, 2005. I've been a resident and homeowner in the City of Gunnison since June, 2012. This town always has been, and always will be my favorite place. I'm thankful to call it "home." I love it just the way it is, I love that it will continue to change, and I love that we concerned citizens are able to help shape that change.

Upon moving here, I took a local friend's advice: "Don't try to change your community immediately. Wait a few years. Listen, learn, and try to understand the heartbeat, history, and people. Try not to change your community into the place you just left (especially if you left that place in search of something better)." Listening is one of my personal and professional strengths. Therefore I believe I now have a decent understanding of this place and how I fit in. Similarly, if I am selected to serve on the council, I would first and foremost try to employ this technique. I would listen and learn as much as possible while I put myself "out on the ice" with the council. I look forward to joining the discourse of the council, and working together, as soon as possible.

## **Capabilities and Accomplishments**

### **Education:**

- Bachelor's Degree in Political Science, Sociology, and Spanish, with a minor in Philosophy. Fort Lewis College. 2004.
- English Teacher in rural Mexico. 2002.
- High School Diploma. Poudre High School. 2000.
- Graduate of Northwest Youth Corps, Leadership Program. 1999.

### **Employment and Training:**

- Lead craftsman, The River's Edge Studio (Timberframe and log building) in Gunnison. 2011-2015.
- Lead carpenter and superintendent, Smithworks Natural Homes in Crested Butte. 2008-2013.
- Historic barn renovator, seasonal, Ciolek Construction in Michigan. 2003-2006.
- Wildland firefighter and trail builder, seasonal, US National Forest Service in Idaho. 2000-2003.

### **Entrepreneurship:**

- Founder and owner of High Point Construction, my current contracting and spec-home company in Gunnison. 2012-Present.
- Founder and owner of Off-Piste Ski Atlas, a backcountry ski guide book publishing company in Gunnison. 2012-Present.
- Founder and co-owner of Havel Tree Farms, a successful blue spruce tree farm in Fort Collins. 2002-Present.
- Founder and owner of A&A Barnhomes, a successful barn restoration and moving company in Crested Butte. 2006-2010.

Gunnison is in an exciting state of change right now. "Complete Streets", Lazy K Ranch, town manager hiring, and OVPP, among other events, are indicators of such change. As a committed and involved community member, father, and business owner, I find myself very interested in all of the community/citizen-driven opportunities facing us. I'm aware that many duties of the council can be mundane, tedious, and even aggravating. This leads me to the primary point I want to make as an applicant for the Council's vacant seat. Whether or not times on the council are fun, exciting, and rewarding, I want to help. I want to help keep our place safe, prosperous and healthy. And I want to help make it better.

If selected, I look forward to getting to know the council and the many citizens of our town. I look forward to listening openly and working together with everyone I can to serve this great place.

Thank you for your consideration,

Andy Sovick



3 Jun 16

To the Gunnison City Council  
201 W. Vignin Ave  
Gunnison Colorado

Councillors,

Please submit my name for  
consideration to fill the empty seat on  
the Gunnison City Council for the term  
ending in May 2017

Very truly yours, Peter Caloren

Peter CALOREN  
514 N. 12th Street  
Gunnison COLORADO

**Eryn Barker**  
503-998-5046  
nopogirl@gmail.com • linkedin.com/in/erynbarker

June 3, 2016

Dear Gunnison City Council,

Please accept this letter of interest to be considered for the vacancy on Gunnison City Council. I have been a resident of Gunnison since November 2013 and have been a registered voter in the city since that time.

While I fulfill the basic qualifications for the position, I also bring a unique perspective and varied experience to the position. I have been working in education since 2001, with 15 years of experience as a middle school teacher and school administrator in urban schools, rural schools, Title I schools and language immersion programs. During my time in education, I acted as a teachers' union representative and spearheaded a complete Spanish Immersion program curriculum overhaul for Portland Public Schools. As the director for GOAL Academy in Gunnison, I grew the program from 14 students to 70 in two years. The Gunnison location was the most successful of all GOAL sites statewide, with students earning double the average credit attainment of GOAL students in Colorado. I have a B.A. in Spanish and Sociology, a M.Ed. in ELL Education and I am currently pursuing an Ed.D. in Instructional Leadership. I am a fluent Spanish speaker.

Currently, I work as an education consultant and part-time instructor for Western State Colorado University, teaching professional educators. Additionally, I am a Colorado Educator Voice Fellow through America Achieves. In that capacity, I work with state legislators and the Colorado Department of Education, advocating for students across the state of Colorado.

I am active in the Gunnison community, having participated in Chamber events, Gunnison Business Women, One Valley Prosperity Project (specifically on the economic development team), gOgirls (the Griggs Orthopedics initiative to increase girls' participating in mountain biking), Gunnison Community School Site Advisory Council and the Gunnison County FAST team. I volunteer regularly at Gunnison Elementary School and support local organizations such as Gunnison Trails.

I care deeply about the Gunnison community and its future. Whether the issue is safe streets for our children, affordable housing for our most vulnerable citizens or diversifying economic development, I would welcome the privilege to represent the citizens of Gunnison as a member of the Gunnison City Council.

I look forward to speaking with you soon regarding this vacancy.

Thank you,



Eryn Barker

PO Box 539  
Gunnison, CO 81230  
970 641-1101

June 3, 2016

Gunnison City Council,

I, Jim Gelwicks, seek to fill the council vacancy and ask for your appointment. As a registered voter and resident of the City of Gunnison for 35 years, who is not in default to the city, I am eligible to serve. I am a retired emeritus communication professor from Western State Colorado University with the time to commit to the duties of council.

As a former Gunnison City Council member and Mayor, I believe that I am the best person to fulfill the immediate duties required. During my ten year tenure on council, I participated in the hiring and the transitions of two City Managers, Filson and Collins. I am experienced in municipal budgeting and working with the State and other governmental agencies. Since serving on council, I remain active in civic affairs, including serving on the Van Tuyl planning committee.

My strength is listening. When making a decision, I always ask myself, "How does this impact Gunnison 25 years from now?"

I'm uncertain about how long I'll serve. Regardless between now and May 2017, Gunnison will enjoy my best effort. Thank you for your time and consideration.



Jim Gelwicks